



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Old-time Collector?

4 messages

Jerry Fochtman <[REDACTED]>
To: "Eric P. Newman" <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Jan 18, 2011 at 4:14 PM

Mr. Newman,

I don't know if you recall, but you and I visited several years ago on the Heath Counterfeit Detectors, as I had stumbled onto a variation of the book due to the different Heath 'microscopes' that were referenced in them. You ended-up going through all of your copies and confirmed what I had uncovered, indicating that you would probably update your numbering system to include this variation. I believe I also shared with you some information from another Heath collector on some variations related to the home edition as well.

Anyway, I'm writing this note to you because one of the things that I'm tracking are the numbered editions of Valentine's book on Postage/Fractional currency. Records show that there were 25 of the black leather editions and 225 of the red/black cover editions. The black leather editions were numbered by and signed by D.W. Valentine, and usually had the name of the original recipient stamped in gold on the cover. The red/black editions were simply numbered.

To-date I have identified 3 of the black leather editions. They were presented to Elliott Smith, Julius Guttag and D.B. Miner. I know who Smith and Guttag were, but can not find anything on a D.B. Miner. I was wondering if you might be familiar with that name.

Finally, if you happen to have either of these books, would you be so kind to let me know what number(s) you have so I can at least record it in my census, as I'm hoping to get a good estimate as to how many may still survive.

Thank-you for your time!

Jerry Fochtman

P.S. I have stumbled onto a Heath Microscope of a design that wasn't shown in his book, yet has the same patent date and Heath's name engraved on it as well. Indeed curious!

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Wed, Jan 19, 2011 at 4:19 PM

Dear Jerry:

I certainly do remember you and your variation comments are resting next to my pile of Heath items. I just put in that group the two images of the Heath Bond Detector from the Stacks recent sale. I have done no further writing on the subject. Why don't you write up any new data?

As to Valentine my old card file indicates that I have two volumes of the 1925 edition bound together with a red and black cloth cover. If there is any writing in it I would have to look in my Museum Library for you

I have a faint recollection that Miner was a dealer. Check the indices of The Numismatist and perhaps Google. Perhaps try Kenneth Bressett. There is a super expert on numismatic identification whose name I currently do not remember.

My best

Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

Jerry Fochtman <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Jan 20, 2011 at 7:41 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Eric,

Thank-you for your note. Indeed, perhaps I'll take-on your challenge of expanding your Heath classification system to incorporate the variations that have surfaced these past several years. Once I have a draft write-up I would want you to review it, and incorporate your thoughts and input. It may be several months before I can undertake this challenge, for I'm currently assisting another individual in a new book on Postage/Fractional currency which has almost reached a complete draft stage and is targeted for completion this spring.

If you do review your red/black Valentine's, there should be a number in them. I can't recall if its located on the title page or another of the initial pages. These were hand-numbered, probably by FCCB, as Valentine himself numbered and autographed the black leather issue. Of the 25 produced black leather issues, Boyd indicated in a letter to M.L. Beistle on Nov. 17th, 1928, that only 15 of this version had been sold, while 183 of the black/red cover editions had been sold. We do know that the extra, unbound copies were sold to B. Max Mehl, which he then bound in pale-blue/green covers and sold.

I have checked auction catalog records (Gengerke, etc) for dealers and hadn't uncovered a dealer by the name of Miner, nor did I find anything on various internet/google searches. Thanks for the suggestion of The Numismatist and Ken Bressett. I'll give those sources a try and may also try and get a hold of Michael Holder as well.

I've a non-numismatic topic to run past you. In your earlier years in/around St. Louis, did you ever have any dealings with the Olin family, from Olin-Mathieson of Winchester Arms? During my summers while in college I had the opportunity to be a handyman for John Olin's daughter and her husband at their summer cottage in Charlevoix, MI where I grew-up. Her husband's name was Davie D. Walker, but went simply by the name of D.D. She shared with me stories of growing-up in the mansion along some bluffs overlooking the Mississippi near St. Louis. I also served as a driver for guests that came to visit them from St. Louis, where her winter home was. I may even have an address somewhere. I say 'her' because she obviously brought all the money to that partnership. Anyway, just curious if you ever had any dealings with the family.

Take care....with warm Regards,

--Jerry

[Quoted text hidden]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
To: [REDACTED]

Fri, Jan 21, 2011 at 1:49 PM

Dear Jerry: Years ago my wife and I had a summer home in Alton on the Mississippi eastern shore before the Olin family moved away and sold their big property. All their history is well known in Alton.

I will check up on my Valentine. Eric

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Fractional....

3 messages

Jerry Fochtman <[REDACTED]>
To: "Eric P. Newman" <[REDACTED]>

Thu, May 5, 2011 at 10:28 AM

Eric,

Sorry it's taken me a few days to follow-up on your call. With my daughter's wedding in a couple of weeks I get pulled into a number of 'unexpected' things.

First off, attached is a copy of an early article I did on Thomas Cunningham after I had obtained an autographed reprint of his article which was from the library of William Philpott. The original article was published in the American Journal of Numismatics in April, 1893. Unfortunately I've not obtained a good image of the original article, for when this was bound, the trimming made it difficult to determine some words on the page sides that were trimmed.

Since I wrote this article, I've learned of other early documents on Postage/Fractional Currency (I've tried listing these in chronological order):

(Author Unknown) - AJN Vol. 12 #3, 1878. (I believe this is a redemption notice)

(Author Unknown) - AJN Vol. 12 #4, 1878. (I believe this may be a letter.)

(Author Unknown) - AJN Vol. 15 #2, 1880. (Article possibly, simply titled "United States. Paper Money - Fractional Currency")

(Author Unknown) - AJN Vol. 20 #1, 1885. (Article possibly, simply titled "United States. Paper Money - Fractional Currency")

Henry Russell Drowne - ANS Proceedings - 1886 "Fractional Currency"

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George Rice - ANA Vol 11, 1898: A series of articles by this author beginning with the Nov. issue and running through March 1899 the following year.

Key: AJN - American Journal of Numismatics
ANS - American Numismatic Society
ANA - American Numismatic Association

After the turn of the century, the number of articles on Postage/Fractional Currency grow significantly. I would 'love' to get good digital copies of the above articles/etc. for my library if you happen to know of a source.

I located my Woodward catalog of 5/6/1880 of the Searing Collection which I've attached should that be helpful.

The earliest Scott catalog I have is #2. It doesn't have a publication date, so I'm unsure but estimate it was in the late 1880s.

The first published booklet which included Postage/Fractional would be Blake's 1908 booklet on 'United States Paper Money', followed by Valentine's 1924 book (published by Boyd).

Let me know if there is anything else I might be able to help you with.

2 attachments



Cunningham Article.pdf

3312K



1880-05-06 - Searing Collection-UNSECURED.pdf

1215K

To: [REDACTED]

Thu, May 5, 2011 at 2:43 PM

Thank you for all the published information on fractional currency. I think I have all of the American Journal of Numismatics issues so I can complete missing elements in your references if necessary.

I had my Valentine book brought from my library and can report that it has F. C. C. Boyd 1924 printed in gold in two lines at the bottom of the front cover; the spine and about one inch next to it on both covers is red; red diagonal outside corners on top and bottom of both covers; and "This is Copy Number 63" on the copyright page with the number written in ink. I believe this is the commoner variety which you mentioned.

If you need any further information which I might be able to furnish please ask.

Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

To: Jerry Fochtman <[REDACTED]>

Thu, May 5, 2011 at 3:02 PM

Thank-you for the Valentine book information! I'll record your library as holding that numbered copy. And yes indeed, you happen to have one of the 225 black/red editions based upon your description. I'm wondering if your copy may have been one Boyd had kept for himself perhaps. I'll note the name on the cover on my census in case another shows-up. This particular edition of the book wasn't noted for having the owners name on the cover, while the all-black leather edition did.

The all-black leather editions had names in gold on the cover. The copy I have was given to Julius Guttag (#4), and I know of books stamped for Elliott Smith, Moritz Wormser's and D.B. Miner (who ever this was...perhaps just a collector). That's 4 of the 25 that were made according to a letter from Boyd I've obtained.

I hope the materials I had were of some help to you. Don't hesitate in asking, as my library is focused on Postage/Fractional and related items, with > 100 auction catalogs as well which I'm digitizing.

Should I have additional time after the close of the show in Memphis, perhaps I could come to St. Luis and see your library and begin research on an update to the Heath numbering system if you are around and not up at Martha's Vineyard.

Have a Great Day!!

--Jerry

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Fractional....

3 messages

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Have a Great Day!!

--Jerry

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Oiler Paper...

1 message

Jerry Fochtman <[REDACTED]>
To: "Eric P. Newman" <[REDACTED]>

Thu, May 5, 2011 at 10:37 AM

Eric,

I meant to include this in the previous note, but thought it best to send it separately.

I received the attached article to include in our upcoming newsletter for the fractional club. Given your current research, I thought you might find this interesting, although I don't agree with some of the author's claims.

--Jerry Fochtman

**The Amazing_with_PicsFinal.doc**
3692K

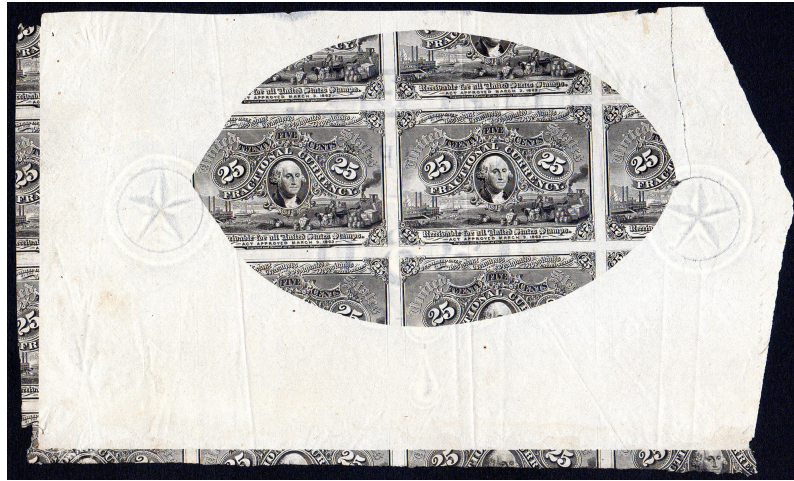
THE AMAZING & PUZZLING

“FOOTBALL”

By

Jerry K. Deutsch

When this most curious and confusing block of Second Issue 25c notes surfaced at Stack's October 2007 John J. Ford auction in Atlanta, it was quickly dubbed “The Football”. Although Union troops were already playing football at Camp Johnson, Va. by 1861, it is highly doubtful there was any correlation, as footballs back then were rounder. This fractional oddity had been quietly housed in various collections, including Frederick C.C. Boyd's, for over 100 years. Not until the Memphis 2008 International Paper Money Show was the general public given an opportunity to gaze upon “The Football”, which by then was part of an award winning exhibit. In Atlanta, Stack's had described Lot 206 as an Incomplete Uniface Experimental Elliptical Block, on Olier 1860 White Bond with Stars. It measured 260mm x 160mm, not cancelled in any way.



What Was Olier Paper?

The June, 1863 issue of *Scientific American* stated that J.P. Olier, a French inventor, had just patented a three ply paper, which was inseparable, and seemingly like fabric. The center layer could be colored and the paper possessed this peculiarity: “every effect visible on the surface is reversed when held to the light”. The Bank of France fancied it, and authorized additional development. It was no wonder then that Spencer M. Clark, head of the U.S. Currency Bureau, became immediately interested as well.



Appearance & Analysis

The block itself is the ultimate conundrum. The notes are simultaneously opaque and transparent. The paper seems ahead of its time, with a capacity for complicated watermarks, appearance alteration upon light variance, and even device embeddings. The watermark is mammoth.

It reads:

OLIER
INVENTEUR
1860

It is further embellished with two stars and what resembles a giant tear drop. There is a complete separation of the paper at one of the watermarks. Very importantly, under magnification, it is readily evident that although layered, this is one sheet of note paper. In addition to razor sharp printing, the paper does indeed have a fabric like quality, although possibly too malleable. It's probably safe to say that of all the paper Clark experimented with, none, not even wallpaper or captured Confederate note paper, in both white and the rarer tan variety, was as strange and fascinating as Olier bond.



How Was “The Football” Printed?

That this sheet of notes could have been conceived, let alone printed in defiance of the then known laws of physical science is more than a little miraculous! The Stack's cataloger was a bit too casual in suggesting that “obviously paper was used to mask an area, allowing the note to be created”. I assure you, a close examination of this elliptical block renders that supposition next to impossible. But as H.G. Wells' scientist responded in *War of the Worlds*, when asked if it was possible for the Martians to do what they were doing, “If they do it, it is” Consequently, I believe someone on Spencer's staff managed to cut away part of the supposed inseparable top layer of Olier, leaving us with the football like image. Still unresolved however, is how and why were several partial notes exposed at the margins? This is, after all, a single sheet of paper.

Why Were The Olier Trials Abandoned?

Interestingly, there are Treasury Dept. notes, possibly in Spencer's own hand, on the back of “The Football” alluding to the fact that there were serious paper weaknesses. The paper apparently couldn't handle the enormous pressure applied by the presses. Olier may not even have been suitable for proof or specimen notes. In the end, despite all of its advances, Olier paper was discarded. While several prohibitively rare examples of yellow Olier experimentals exist, there is only this one on white Olier bond. Destined for, but somehow saved from the dustbin of lost and forgotten fractionals, “The Football” is supremely unique in the currency genre. As such, it remains one of the more intriguing and prized pieces of fractional ephemera.



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Happy Day!!

1 message

Jerry <[REDACTED]>
To: "Eric P. Newman" <[REDACTED]>

Fri, May 25, 2012 at 7:54 PM

Eric,

I extend to you my most sincere wishes for a Happy Birthday! I am hopeful to complete my current projects and to visit your library so as to work together to update your work on the Heath books.

I hope you are enjoying this special day!

Sincerely,

--Jerry Fochtman



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Postage Currency research...

3 messages

Tue, Nov 27, 2012 at 8:19 AM

Reply-to: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]

Eric,

I thought I'd follow-up in case my previous inquiry may not have been received.

Any thoughts/insights you might have would be greatly appreciated.

--Jerry Fochtman

----- Original Message -----

From: Jerry <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]

Date: October 30, 2012 at 7:45 PM

Subject: Production sequence of postage currency

Eric,

I hope this note finds you in good health, and perhaps busy with research on solving another numismatic mystery!

I am writing you with a mystery of my own. There has been some active discussions in various publications raising questions as to whether the initial release of fractional currency was with perforated sheets or unperforated. It has been suggested to me that you may know of a newspaper article from I believe a Philadelphia paper around August, 1862, which reports that the paymaster's had received sheets of the 1st issue note, and the article may clarify whether these were perforated sheets or not. Rob Kravitz indicated that he recalled you showing him the article at one time in an old newspaper many years ago but doesn't recall what newspaper it may have been in.

Milt Friedberg's book on fractional currency also refers to "Recently discovered documents of a Congressional Committee defines the printing sequence". Unfortunately Milt's material doesn't disclose more detail as to the specific committee or the time frame that the documents may be from.

While I continue to research this question, I thought I would pose it to you, to see if by any chance you may recollect anything that might help provide evidence as to the production sequence of the first issue of postage currency.

Many thanks!

--

--Jerry Fochtman

Thanks!

--Jerry

Wed, Nov 28, 2012 at 2:02 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Jerry:

Happy Holiday Greetings.

I have no information which can help you on your fractional currency perforation priority. Would any of the philatelic experts be able to help? Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

Wed, Nov 28, 2012 at 2:42 PM

Reply-to: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]

Eric,
Thank-you! Indeed I wish you and your Bride(!) a Joyous Holiday season!

--Jerry

[Quoted text hidden]

Thanks!

--Jerry



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Postage Currency research...

3 messages

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To: [REDACTED]

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1/16/2019

Gmail - Postage Currency research...

To: [REDACTED]

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--Jerry

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Thanks!
--Jerry



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Production sequence of postage currency

1 message

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Many thanks!

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--Jerry Fochtman



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

ANA Chicago....

1 message

Fri, Jul 26, 2013 at 4:51 PM

Reply-To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Eric,

I trust that my note finds you and Evelyn enjoying your summer visit to Massachusetts!

While I doubt you'll be able to attend, I did want to extend to you an invitation to view the exhibit I will be placing into competition at the ANA show in Chicago. The theme of the exhibit is the Heath Counterfeit Detector Microscopes and includes examples of all 3 varieties. After much searching, I did finally locate an example of the 3-legged variety that appeared in some of his later editions. If you recall, it was my pointing out of this difference in varieties of the same edition of his book in a conversation we had that caused you (in your own words)... 'some restless nights', as you indicated you went back and checked through your collection of detectors and confirmed it was a variation you had missed.

I did an exhibit last fall at ANA in Dallas on his microscope but didn't have the 3-legged version which you and I had discussed. Joseph Boling indicated to me that no one has ever done an exhibit on these and he doubted that people in numismatics had ever seen them beyond the illustrations in his detectors. I have since, after a great deal of effort, been able to locate and have added a well-used example of his 3-legged version to my exhibit.

My research of Laban has also turned some interesting things, including his running for office of a local water board, along with his helping the secret service in locating some former people that worked for him who became counterfeiters. I've also learned that Laban Heath and Company ventured into electric water valves and Laban had an exhibit in the 1893 Chicago World's Fair in the Hall of Machinery on their invention.

In my on-going research on Laban Heath I've uncovered pictures of his grave marker in Kennebuckport, Maine. He's actually interred in his wife's family plot. And while her name was Kingman when they married, she was a widow, and her original family name was Emery. It is on the Emery family marker where Laban and his wife Lizzy are etched. Her brother, Frederick Emery, worked at Laban Heath & Company. Her deceased husband may also have worked there, for he was a book binder/gilder by trade.

My challenge has been trying to locate an image of Laban himself. I've not had any success thus far, and he/Lizzy were childless. So my future research will involve chasing down Laban's family tree via his older brother and younger siblings to see if I can find a decendent in hopes that an old family photo album may exist. I'll also have to research the Emery family as well, and I believe there still are decendents in the Kennebuckport area.

I did locate a catalog that Laban did later in life on optic devices. But the only copy I've found thus far is in the rare book room at the Boston library and obviously not available to me in Texas. The librarian did examine it for me on the outside chance it might have an illustration of him but unfortunately it didn't....so my quest continues... After all, it's the challenge of answering questions like this that make researching an exciting pursuit!

If you have any thoughts based upon your research experience as to ideas to try and find an illustration/image of Laban, please let me know. And if you are going to attend the ANA in Chicago, I sincerely do invite you to see my Heath microscope exhibit.

Thanks!

--Jerry Fochtman



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Researching FCCB...

3 messages

Jerry Fochman <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Oct 19, 2015 at 7:24 PM

Reply-To: Jerry Fochman <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]

Hi Eric,

Hope my note finds you and your special bride doing well! It's been awhile since we've communicated, and I still have on my project list the task of expanding your Heath book classifications to take the various microscope into consideration.

Wondered if you might be able to help, as I'm been doing some research on FCCBoyd. Specifically I've been trying to locate information as to his marriage to Helen, or Mary Helen Lynch. I've not been able to find any record of their marriage in my search of NY or NJ marriage records. In conjunction with this, I was hoping to find something as to his divorce from his first wife, Maude Coombes Boyd. I've narrowed it down to sometime late, or after 1918, as I've a copy of his WW-I draft card dated 9/12/18 where he listed Maude as his wife.

I'm also looking for some sort of Obituary or death certificate for Helen. As I understand, she died in 1971, but I don't have any specific information as to where. Some information I've found suggests was in Sept, 1971. So I've search what records I've found thus far on NY and NJ death records without any success.

Anyway, wondered if you had any insight into FCCB and his marriage to Helen, and possible any info on her death. I've made a pass at the New York and New Jersey death records without any success. There is always the possibility that she was somewhere else when she died, which would be where the death records would be located. I've not even found any newspaper obituaries either.

Speaking of Laban Heath...have you ever come across a picture of him?

Anyway, if you've any insight/pointers that might help with my research I'd appreciate it!

Thanks!

--Jerry Fochtman

Tue, Oct 20, 2015 at 10:57 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Eric said maybe Stu or Maureen know this information or where to find it. So I've been asked to pass this inquiry along to you.

Andy

[Quoted text hidden]

Maureen Levine <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Oct 20, 2015 at 11:36 AM

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

I didn't see anything with info on Boyd's marriages or Helen's death when we looked through the documents.

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Fwd: Researching Stuart Gwynn and FCCBoyd.

1 message

Eric <[REDACTED]>
To: Print <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Dec 29, 2016 at 3:38 PM

----- Original message -----

From: Jerry Fochman <[REDACTED]>
Date: 12/29/16 2:12 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Researching Stuart Gwynn and FCCBoyd.

Hi Eric,

Indeed Happy Holidays! I trust my note finds you in good health as 2016 draws to a close and we look towards 2017!

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As always, thanks for taking the time to read my note and anything you may have to offer.

Wishing you all the best!

--Jerry Fochtman

Houston, TX

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Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Fwd: Researching Stuart Gwynn and FCCBoyd.

1 message

Eric <[REDACTED]>
To: Andy Newman <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Jan 3, 2017 at 9:46 PM

----- Original message -----

From: Jerry Fochman <[REDACTED]>
Date: 12/29/16 2:12 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Researching Stuart Gwynn and FCCBoyd.

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1 message

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Tue, Jan 3, 2017 at 10:46 PM

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